

A

# REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

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Saturday, January 19. 1712.

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I Ndeed I think we have Quarrel'd so long, and to so little purpose, about whether we shall, or shall not come to a Treaty, that it is Time to leave it off, the Treaty being already begun, and the Plenipotentiaries from all Sides repairing to Utrecht, where some are already Arriv'd — Even the Emperor, if our last Accounts are true, considering better of it, has, or is likely to order his Ministers to attend, as indeed his Objections against it being so frivolous, I always said, and always believ'd he would.

Indeed the Reasonableness of coming to-

gether to hear what *France* will offer, seems so great, that nothing has been so astonishing, as to see the Current of the Times run so much against it; the *French* have offer'd to Treat, upon promise of giving all the Allies Satisfaction; the Queen has been of the Opinion, that this is so fair, that she cannot refuse to hear what he has to say — What Difficulty, what Re-proaches, what Suggestions of Secret Negotiations, Separate Treaties, and of the Peace being made already, her Majesty has met with at Home and Abroad, you all know, and if it should appear to have been

all

all Groundless, sure some People will look back and blush at themselves, but we must wait a little longer for that.

Now the Treaty is begun, I shall apply myself to a few Things which I cannot but think is my Duty to urge upon the Age, as proper to the Season of the Treaty.

1. As I hinted before, I cannot but gather from the Concern the King of France has shewn to obtain this Treaty, that very good Terms may be had from him by all the Allies, if they will Unite in this Treaty, as they are United in the War; and therefore nothing can be so much the Interest of the Confederates, as to adjust among themselves what it is Reasonable every Ally should Demand and Insist upon, and what they should be satisfy'd with; and really this seems so Natural, that one would think it should need no Reasoning to enforce it; For how shall the Ministers of the Allies know how to Unite with, and stand by one another in their Demands, if they are not first Agreed what they shall, or shall not Insist upon at the Treaty?— I shall say more of this as I go on, in which I shall not doubt but the worst Enemy of this Paper shall be Satisfy'd, whether I am Writing for a French Peace, yea or no.

2. I observe, if you can but agree what Conditions to Insist on for all the Confederates, I am persuaded such is the Necessity the French are in, such the Formidable appearance of the Confederates, such the Ruin'd Exhausted Condition of King Philip, that the King of France will never run the Venture of letting this Treaty break off; but you may obtain as much by this Treaty, as for ought I see it may be proper for you to take, tho' your Armies were at the Gates of Paris and Madrid, the King of France is no Fool; we know the Interest he has

made to obtain this Treaty, and he knows he shall never be able to get such another but by the Sword, which he has try'd so much to his Cost, that he will not be forward to venture; if therefore he finds you United and Resolute, you may have what you will of him; if Divided, Jealous, and Uneasie one at another, in short, he may have what he will of you, and you must yield it to him; and this I take to be the true State of the Case before us.

If any Man ask me what I mean by adjusting our Demands; as I am none of those that speak obscurely, I'll be as plain as you can desire me; and I'll offer some Heads.

If the Imperial Ministers Insist on more, than the Interest and Safety of the rest of the Confederates consists with, and than the said Confederates think he ought to be Satisfy'd with.

If any Sinister Agents should infuse Jealousies among US or our Neighbours, the Dutch, or other Allies, that by any Acquisitions in the American Dominions of Spain or elsewhere, which we may Demand, or which they may Demand, we may become Uneasie or Dangerous to one another, and this should, as God forbid, break the good Understanding now happily settled among us.

These Things would be such Bones of Contention, as would doubtless give the Enemy an Advantage over us in the Treaty, and open a Door for him to get Ground by seemingly closing with this or that Side against the other; to prevent which, a compleat Concert of Measures among all the Confederates, by which all their several Interests and Demands might be adjusted, would, without doubt, be the most dire& Step, and would Contribute more towards bringing the French to comply with

All our Demands, than an Army of an Hundred Thousand Men in the Field.

I know there are not wanting Whisperers among the Confederates on all Hands; and give me leave to put some of you in Mind, that your Suggestion here, of Private and Secret Treaties and Negotiations with France, has given but too much Ground to it, Insinuating that we have made too good Terms for ourselves; if this were true, as I fear it is not, yet I must needs say, one would think we ought not to have been the first to Complain of it; 'Tis a little strange, that the first Clamour of Advantages to England, shoud begin at London, and that any from hence shou'd endeavour to make the Dutch Jealous of our being Dangerous to them, by what we may gain by the Peace, whether it be in America, or any where else; and tho' I hope, after what has been Conceded to the Dutch, in the Point of Barrier, by the Interposition of her Majesty, even so far, that the D. of Marl —<sup>gh</sup> himself, when Plenipotentiary, refus'd to sign it — The States of Holland cannot be made Jealous of her Majesty, or Uneasie at what we may get for ourselves.

And now without entering yet into what we have, or have not our Eyes upon in the West-Indies, and into the Reason of one Thing which I have often hinted at, viz. That it seems hard, that We, of all the Confederates, having had so great Loss by the War, should obtain nothing Particular by the Peace; yet let me put you in Mind of one Thing, which I believe few think of, and yet all, when they hear it, will judge Reasonable,

The Dutch insist upon a Large and a Firm Barrier; the Possession and Military Government of large Towns, and even Provinces, in the Low Countries, as a Skreen stretch'd out, or a Line drawn round their own Dominions, to preserve them from the Invasion of the French, and Reason good, let them have it; no Man can grudge the Dutch a sufficient Security against an Enemy who has so often Invaded and Over-

run them; nay, I'll go farther, and own, their Barrier is our Safety, and their Safety our Strength, as to a War on that Side, provided these Things are settled with Reasonable Restrictions, as I suppose they are or will be.

But is there no Place in the World where we stand in need of a Barrier again France, as well as the Dutch do in Flanders? — What think you, Gentlemen, of the late unhappy Expedition against Canada, and the Necessity of a Barrier for our Colonies on the Continent of America, a thought that has disturbed but few of you, while you have been so anxious to make others Great?

Our Coffee-House States-Men here, that are Settling the Nation every Day, as their Party-Wildoms lead them, are mighty sharp-sighted for the Emperor, and will struggle hard for Sicily or Sardinia; tho' half of them knows not whether they lie in Europe or Africa; but they never trouble their Heads with the Interest of their own Nation, or the Security of our Commerce, the Prosperity of our Colonies, and Safety of our Plantations: It is a Maxim every Man of Sense will own, that the Wealth and Strength of our Colonies is our own Wealth and our own Strength, but where is the Man that considers the Naked Condition of New England, New York, Virginia, &c. to the Land-side, and that the French in Canada grow Formidable to them, and will, in Time, Ruin and Remove them, if not provided against in Time? Let such People tell me whether is of more Value to us, that this should be Secur'd, or the last three Years Campaigns in Flanders be to fight over again? In short, let them consider the Necessity of some Security on that Side, and how much we shall be wanting to ourselves, if some Care be not taken, both of that and of our Newfoundland Trade also at the approaching Treaty; of which more may be said in its Place.

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